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The new Women’s Health Research Institute of the Permian Basin will help promote patient care, research, community health and medical education.

TEACHING HOSPITALS SUPPORT ESTABLISHMENT OF WOMEN’S HEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTE :: Midland Memorial Hospital and Medical Center Hospital in Odessa gave $150,000 each in support of the establishment of the Women’s Health Research Institute of the Permian Basin. Funding will help promote patient care, research, community health and medical education throughout the Permian Basin and rural West Texas.

“The Women’s Health Research Institute brings together the women’s health education programs at each of these Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center teaching hospitals, including the Spirit of Women at Medical Center Hospital and women’s health outreach programs through Midland Memorial Hospital,” says School of Medicine Regional Dean John C. Jennings, M.D.

Jennings was instrumental in creating the Women’s Health Research Institute of Amarillo and has a long history in promoting women’s health and research statewide and nationally.

FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN TO BENEFIT SOM STUDENTS :: In January, Texas Tech Physicians and the Odessa Chamber of Commerce Medical Expansion Committee announced a major fundraising campaign that will provide scholarships for future medical students at the Permian Basin.

Matthew Furst, M.D., (SOM ’87) chief of staff at Medical Center Hospital in Odessa, chairs the committee consisting of community and business leaders,

School of Medicine Regional Dean John Jennings, M.D., presented a check to Furst for $15,000 on behalf of Texas Tech Physicians of the Permian Basin to kick-off fund-raising efforts. School of Medicine Dean Steven L. Berk, M.D., matched the funds with a donation from the School of Medicine in Lubbock.

SON ESTABLISHES NEW CENTER OF EXCELLENCE :: Through a partnership with Medical Center Hospital in Odessa, TTUHSC School of Nursing has established a new Center of Excellence in Evidence-Based Practice with a focus on discovering ways to improve patient care and safety.

“The center symbolizes a unique partnership of academia and service that will integrate research, education and patient care,” says Sharon Cannon, Ed.D., co-director. “The nearest evidence-based practice center in Texas is located in San Antonio, so we are excited to bring this concept to West Texas.”

Through this center, multidisciplinary teams of educators and health care providers will be supported and encouraged to look beyond the traditional approaches in research, education and patient care to find new methods of delivering health care, utilizing holistic care of the patient, adds Carol Boswell, Ed.D., (SON ’81, ’91) co-director.

HOSPITAL DISTRICT ESTABLISHES ENDOWED CHAIRS :: The Ector County Hospital District Board of Directors designated $4 million in February to support four endowed chairs for the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at the Permian Basin.

The gift will establish chairs in the Obstetrics and Gynecology, Family Medicine and Internal Medicine departments. Additionally, the gift will fund the first-ever endowed chair for the School of Nursing to support the regional dean position.

Endowed chairs enable TTUHSC to recognize its most talented faculty members as well as to recruit outstanding new members.